

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown
245 DeKoven Drive Room 208
October 1, 2013
6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight, Chairperson, Keith Vinci, Marie Hurley, Joseph Carta “present via conference call”, Elderrean Paules, August DeFrance, Richard Pelletier, Phil Cacciola, Abigail Nolan, Youth in Government

Absent: Steven Shapiro

Staff Present: Karen Nocera, Staff, Parks and Recreation

General Public: none

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:08pm.

3. Public Hearing: none

4. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of Sept. 3, 2013, was made by Ellie Paules and seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion was passed. Richard Pelletier abstained.

Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance discussed the groundbreaking ceremony that was held on Monday, Sept. 30th at the Eckersley Hall building site. There were many people at the groundbreaking ceremony. Water’s Edge Center for Health and Rehabilitation supplied refreshments and cookies. The dignitaries all held shovels and broke the ground. The removal of the Veteran’s museum will begin Wednesday, October 2nd. We should be in the new senior center in one year. This time next year it will be open and functioning. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight asked Richard Pelletier if he had any information about the South Cove project. Richard stated that the project is moving rapidly. There have been several public input meetings with the most recent being on Sept. 28, 2013. There is a great deal of information to go through. The single most popular suggestion is for a boat launch. There are also suggestions for restaurants, piers, and expanding the cut out near the pavilion for the practicing of canoeing and kayaking without the current affecting them. There will be a meeting next month to review all of the information that was sifted through. The City of Cromwell has decided that they do not want us there. The State and the officials that oversee the sewage treatment plant have determined that we are joining Mattabassett. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight asked Marie Hurley about the sump pump project. Marie was just re-sworn in today. She starts on the Mattabasset Project at a meeting on October 10, 2013. She is representing Middletown on this Committee. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules stated that everything at Monarca Place has been very quiet. There was an article in the Middletown Press that Middlesex Community College is renovating their cafeteria. There was a request to make sure that all repairs and/or renovations are compliant. Keith Vinci suggested a letter be sent to Middlesex Community College to make them aware of the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities and that if there are any questions they can notify us. Also, include in the letter, the question of whether or not they have a Committee for the Disabled. A discussion ensued.

- Karen Nocera discussed the cruise on October 15, 2013, on the Lady Katharine. There are 200 people that are registered. A discussion ensued.
- Abigail Nolan discussed that at Mercy High School there was a music video made. It is a promotional video to have girls join the high school. Katy Perry announced a contest that she would perform at the school that made the best video for her new song "Roar". The video is on Mercy's website as well as youtube.com. A discussion ensued.
- Keith Vinci discussed the Lady Katharine Cruise. He stated that if he knows in advance about these cruises he will encourage those that are hearing impaired to go on the cruise and that he would attend as well. He mentioned that they have a tendency to feel isolated and shut down when they seeing others having a great time. He said that years ago the Committee used to give out awards for service to community or an employer of the year or citizen of the year that has demonstrated drive and determination. Keith is the President of the Connecticut Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf and they are thinking of hosting an event, possibly at Wesleyan, in December. There is a Sign Language House at Wesleyan that will also be involved. They get together and spend time together. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight announced that there are now audible walk signals on the corners of Main and College, Main and Williams and Main and Court Street. They just started within the last two weeks. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola mentioned that he was asked a question about distance from a main room and a bathroom in a public place and if there were any regulations regarding this. The Election was mentioned. Marty Knight will be trained with the Moderators. All polling places are required to be fully accessible. Past problems have occurred because Moderators were not trained properly. Susan Bysiewicz has voted at Farm Hill School and each time she voted with the phone system. The reason for this was to make sure it was working and that the disabled had a proper, independent way of voting as well as everyone else. Marty discussed issues that he has faced in the past with voting. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight mentioned that the November CCPD meeting will fall on Election Day. It was suggested that the location of the November CCPD meeting be at the Recreation Department. A discussion ensued.

Old Business

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Phil Cacciola mentioned that there is a great distance between the parking lot and the location of the entrance to the gym at Lawrence School. He stated that per law, there is to be a bench every 100 feet. A discussion ensued.
- Richard Pelletier discussed that there are no railings inside the tunnel on DeKoven Drive. He suggested that Billy Russo of Public Works be notified to have railings installed inside the tunnel on both sides. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola mentioned that the audible walk signals are now working. They are located on Main Street and William, College, and Court Streets. Marty stated that there is a problem with this because we do not know where the poles are to hit the button to utilize them. Phil mentioned that in other towns, the button beeps. This is something that we should look into. There is also an audible walk signal that should be posted on Rapallo Avenue. The money is allocated for that location also. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola also mentioned that many restaurants on Main Street are having tables outside and are not maintaining a clear path. There are supposed to be a clear path of 48 inches and this is not

the case in front of many restaurants. We have to be diligent in making sure that they maintain that space. A discussion ensued.

- Karen Nocera mentioned that there are 25 different meetings across the state regarding transportation. Also, October 25th is the Down Town Trick or Treating. This is from 12pm – 5pm. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight mentioned that at Disney World there will no longer be special lines for the disabled. This is because of abuse of the special lines. People were actually hiring disabled people so that they could go straight to the front of the line. They will be entitled to what is called a Fast Pass. A discussion ensued.
- Joe Carta mentioned that there is Dial A Ride through MAT that offers rides for the disabled for a fee of \$1.50 each way. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules mentioned that there is a contest. It is for CRIS Radio. The contest is to nominate your favorite nonprofit organization. You can call and vote once a day and if they win they receive \$10,000.00. A discussion ensued.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013. The meeting will be held at the Recreation Department at 6:00pm.

Adjournment: A motion of adjournment was made by Ellie Paules and was seconded by Marie Hurley. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/lbr